



U.S. Department of Justice

RONALD W. SHARPE
United States Attorney
District of the Virgin Islands

Ron de Lugo Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse
5500 Veterans Drive, Suite 260
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, VI 00802-6424

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Two St. John Men Sentenced to Over 10 Years Each in St. John Bank Robbery

St. Thomas, USVI - District Court Chief Judge Curtis V. Gomez today sentenced Shevaun Browne and Kadeem Thomas to 165 months and 144 months in prison, respectively, for their involvement in the robbery of the St. John branch of Merchant Commercial Bank, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe and Virgin Islands Police Commissioner Henry W. White, Jr. announced.

The Court also sentenced Browne, 25, and Thomas, 22, to five years of supervised release, and ordered them to pay restitution to the bank in the amount of \$47,529.38.

On March 28, 2012, after a three-day trial in district court, a federal jury convicted Browne and Thomas, both of St. John, of conspiracy to interfere with interstate commerce by robbery, and aiding and abetting armed bank robbery. Thomas also was convicted of using and carrying a firearm during the commission of a crime of violence.

Evidence presented at trial established that Browne, Thomas and Keven Fessale met on several occasions to plan the bank robbery. On January 11, 2011, Thomas and Fessale entered the bank in Chocolate Hole with the firearms drawn and proceeded to rob the bank. After robbing the bank, Fessale and Thomas fled in Browne's car. According to the evidence

presented at trial, Browne was the mastermind of the robbery, and provided the firearms used in the robbery.

Fessale pled guilty on March 8, 2012 to bank robbery. He was sentenced on July 3, 2012 to 26 months in prison and five years of supervised release. He also was ordered to pay restitution to the bank in the amount of \$47,529.38, jointly and severally, with Browne and Thomas.

The case was investigated by the Virgin Islands Police Department/Federal Bureau of Investigation Safe Streets Task Force. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Nelson L. Jones and Ishmael Meyers, Jr.